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PWC Monthly Meeting

*Phoenix Writers Club meets monthly on the 3rd Saturday of the month.
Pre-Payment & RSVP Required*

Devonshire Senior Center, 2802 E Devonshire Ave (28th St., north of Indian School Rd. **Saturday, March 15**. Schedule: 10-10:30-social time; 10:30-11-business, intros; 11-12-speaker; 12-12:30 wrap up and social time. \$10 fee for members, \$15 for guests. RSVP to phoenixwriters1926@gmail.com. Pay your meeting fee or your annual dues of \$40, if you haven't done so, with a check to our treasurer, Navissa Kaiser, payable to Phoenix Writers Club, 5715 E. Alder, Mesa 85206; or

use Zelle which goes into our club account. You are also welcome to pay for several monthly meetings at one time in advance. If you already have a Zelle account and would like to pay this way, add new recipient phoenixwriters1926@gmail.com. **Questions?** Email Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com

A Note from the PWC President

It is with a heavy heart that I write this, my dear friend, Bernadette Inclan, passed away on February 3rd. She was a PWC stalwart, serving as Vice-president, critique group coordinator, and Centennial Chair, and anywhere else that she could. She was my 'right-hand woman' and was always eager to hone her craft and invite others to do the same. Her energy filled the room when she entered and that big, bright smile made everyone feel welcome.

She delighted in learning all she could about writing, publishing, and promoting her first book, *The Perils of Beginnings: A Cavazos Historical Memoir*. She was interviewed several times during her promotions and her energy pops out of the screen.

I'm grateful to have her book, posts, and videos to share with others. But most of all I am grateful to have called her my friend.

If you would like to contribute to a tribute newsletter for Bernadette, please send a memory, poem, short piece, etc. to our newsletter editor, D'Anne Pientka at azdanne@gmail.com by April 15th. We are planning a memorial for Bernadette in late April and will keep everyone posted about the date.

"A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies. It brings us together again and again". Maya Angelou



Write on,
Cindi Reiss

Introducing our March Speakers

We will present a panel of three long-time PWC members and successful authors for our March meeting. <https://phoenixwritersclub.com/members/our-members/>



- Kixx Goldman www.drkixxgoldman.com,
- Richard McMaster <https://richard-mcmaster.com/>
- Mark Walker Million Mile Walker (3) Mark D Walker | Substack

They will share their experiences with the ins and outs of publishing and promotion they have done with their books. The writing journey is filled with successes and disappointments and can be overwhelming with the vast amount of information to weed through an ever-changing landscape. Please bring your questions and comments as we explore these subjects with authors who have kept current with this landscape and are continually learning.

So You Think You Know English

[17 Hilarious Jokes That Will Test Your English Language Skills To The Limits | by David Graham | The Knowledge of Laughter | Medium](#)

PWC Social Media Coordinator and PWC Secretary



- Social Media Coordinator: **Eric Miller** offered to assist Ilsa Manning with the social media.
- PWC Secretary: **Beth Liechti Johnson** will take on the role as PWC secretary. She unofficially stepped in the last several months.

We're grateful for their willingness to volunteer. Please be sure to thank them next time you see them.

Any club is only as good as its volunteers. PWC just got better.



PWC Volunteers

Phoenix Writers Club needs YOU! Our club runs on volunteers who give their time and donations. There is a place for anyone who would like to help in any way, especially with the planning of our centennial events and contests. If you would like to explore these options and find out more, please email Cindi Reiss at writeoncindi@gmail.com

February Meeting Minutes

By Beth Johnson

Location: Devonshire Senior Center

Snacks provided by Beth, Sybil, Cindi and D'Anne.

Officers in attendance: Cindi Reiss-President, Navissa Kaiser-Treasurer, Ilsa Manning-Social Media, D'Anne Pientka-Newsletter Editor

17 attendees plus speaker.

10:00-10:45 AM Members enjoyed social time.

10:45 AM Cindi Reiss, PWC President, convened PWC monthly meeting with remarks.

Bernadette Inlan, PWC Vice President and Writers Critique Workshop Coordinator, passed Feb 3, 2025: Cindi recalled meeting Bernadette 12 years earlier, before Bernadette had started writing. Bernadette invited Cindi to her Craft Group. Bernadette always said when she retired, she would write her story, and she did, publishing *Perils of Beginnings: A Cavazos Historical Memoir* in 2023. https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/204516988-the-perils-of-beginnings?from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=vh601R4Fw8&rank=1 Her website <https://bernadetteinlan.com/>

PWC intends to honor Bernadette by publishing a tribute newsletter in the next few months. Please submit your written contributions about Bernadette (story, memorial, poem – no longer than 1000 words) to newsletter editor D'Anne Pientka by Apr 15, 2025.

Mar 1 – Apr 15, 2025, PWC Formidable Women Essay and Poetry Contest: Please promote the contest to your networks. PWC is hosting the contest in honor of Women's History month and a lead up to our centennial in 2026. Open to all Arizona residents and all PWC members (some reside out of state.) Details at <https://phoenixwritersclub.com/contests/>

Mar 9, 2025, Sunday off Central: 10 AM – 3 PM, on Vernon Ave between Central and 3rd. PWC (Cindi, Deborah, D'Anne) will host a PWC info table. Members are encouraged to stop by and to sell their books but must be on site to coordinate/accept payment for their books. <https://www.midtownphx.org/new-events/2023/5/8/sunday-off-central-block-party-2024>

Friday night PWC Critique Group, 6PM – 8PM: Chris Wheeler, PWC member in OK, is new lead for the long-time group. Participants improve their own work and learn to critique others. Drafts are submitted one



week prior to 2nd and 4th Friday when group meets on ZOOM. Members are welcome to sit in, whether they participate in critiques or not. mrchris.wheeler@gmail.com

Writer’s Inspiration, 1st and 3rd Tues of month, 3PM – 4:30 PM: Cindi started this prompt group about 20 years ago and it’s based on concepts found in *Writing Down the Bones* by Natalie Goldberg (https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/44905.Writing_Down_the_Bones) The group meets on ZOOM and practices writing, reading their writing, but no critiquing. Contact Cindi for ZOOM invite.

PWC Newsletter: D’Anne is editor. Goal is to publish newsletter by 1st of each month. Send submissions to azdanne@gmail.com.

11- 11:15 AM PWC members introduced themselves to group.

Speaker

11:15 – 12:30 PM Guest speaker Janna Lopez, author of *The Bypass to Brilliance*, founder of Poetic Intelligence, 2023 Santa Fe Poet Laureate Ambassador. <https://jannalopez.com/>

Highlights from Janna’s presentation:

Why are we stuck as writers? Nobody likes to create then get stuck in not creating. I can help you get unstuck, unlearn what you have learned about writing. I went on a path of unlearning for many years, and that’s what I teach. We have a deep desire to be heard, to tell our stories but we can become bogged down. I work with people to help them unlearn so they can create. Writing is the only cultural currency with true value.

My method is “Bypass to Brilliance,” a way to acknowledge your ideas that are formed from 100,000 of moments in your life. Writing is the only form of expression that comes with expectations. I’ve been a poet all my life. But not until finishing my MFA at 52 was I considered a poet. I’m thrilled to announce I have accepted the position of Inaugural Poet in Residence of Creighton Univ (international platform).

I’ve seen people’s lives change when writing from a place of inspiration.

1. Writing is a relationship. Things you give to a relationship: communication, time, patience, empathy, trust, honesty, grace, kindness, forgiveness, hope, humor.
2. Writing is a conversation with yourself. Step in. Step out. Ongoing. Active. Not active. Your creative expression should not be burdensome, such as practicing daily pages.
3. Writing is an Invitation, not an Expectation. Welcome. Choice. A possibility. Words make a difference. Expectations rob a writer of any joy from writing.



4. Write for an audience of ONE – You. Process of writing gives you something you need.

I use Invitations not Prompts. She presented a short activity that showed members how a shift can occur in the intentionality of their writing (exercise Candle and exercise Gold Ring). Use exercises to connect to your you-ness.

Two things are true: people will not like your writing and people will like your writing.



I want to help writers figure out where they get stuck.

- Mental snare: stuck in your mind
- Emotional Snare: fear, disappointment, can't write about [fill in the blank]
- Spiritual Snare: writing is spiritual, an element of humanness
- Tactical Overwhelm Snare: so many ideas, logistics to creating a world, can bog you down

Writing is a conversation with yourself. Pitfalls of writing: Time: time is now.
Purpose: redefine your purpose.

Janna offered a FREE 20 min session: for PWC members.

2025 Writing Lab: Focus, Feedback & Form: Janna invited us to attend her online class, last Monday of each month, 6 PM MST on ZOOM. More info at: <https://jannalopez.com/product/writing-lab-2025-focus-feedback-form/>. Janna's book, *Me, My Selfie and Eye*, is avail on Amazon, https://www.amazon.com/stores/Janna-Lopez/author/B083KMGVXL?ref=ap_rdr&isDramIntegrated=true&shoppingPortalEnabled=true

Meeting ended at 12:30 PM

Save the Date: Sunday, March 9

Event: **the 14th annual Sunday-off-Central Block Party**

Time: 10am-3pm

Sunday-Off-Central block party is sponsored each year by the MidTown Association. This is a FREE event featuring local vendors, food trucks, live music, and of course – community connections! It is also a wonderful opportunity to promote Phoenix Writers Club and for us, writers, to sell our books! The event takes place along Vernon Avenue between Central and 3rd Street. We have a space reserved.

If you are interested in participating by selling books and/or greeting the public and talking about PWC, please contact Deborah Partington at deborahpsyd@q.com or 602-334-8154 You do not have to be present for the entire time. Come for an hour. Bring your family. If you want to sell your books you will need to be present to handle payments. Come out and celebrate your writing life with us!

February Meeting Photos



Another Helpful Website

Thank you to Jeffrey Callan for providing this link.

<https://www.sfw.org/other-resources/for-authors/writer-beware/>

Writing Tools—Alternates to Grammarly

I don't pay for Grammarly

Story by Parth Shah

Found this article I think you might like.

<https://tinyurl.com/mup8rujb>

Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing

BUY ONE, GET ONE 50% OFF

Register for the first workshop and get an emailed code for 50% off the second workshop. For questions, or if you already registered for one class, contact Sasha at shawki31@asu.edu

Four Tuesdays | March 4, 11, 18, and 25
@ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Piper House

Write the Memoir You're Afraid to Write

In person with Patricia L. Brooks

Sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/y7v8cuhb>

For additional workshops, go to:

[Home page | Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing](#)



Formidable Women Essay and Poetry Contest

We are excited to begin accepting submissions for our *Formidable Women Essay and Poetry Contest* on **March 1st**. <https://phoenixwritersclub.com/formidable-women-a-womens-history-month-essay-poetry-contest/>

Phoenix Writers Club was formed in 1926 when a group of formidable women were denied access to the all male press club so this is in honor of them and all of the formidable women we know!



Help us begin the celebration as we move closer to our centennial in 2026. Thank you for spreading the word in your writing community and getting your submissions ready to go. We have been exploring our history as we approach our centennial in 2026. We have notebooks of pictures, newsletters, articles and more that were meticulously organized by Bernadette, one more thing that she did for PWC.

We are going to begin a history page on our website and our newsletter has contained summaries of some of the decades and features on individuals in PWC history. And we need more, we have 100 years of history to showcase. Your ideas and input are needed. Email me at writeoncindi@gmail.com and become part of our history!

PWC Critique Writing Group

Our critique workshop meets via Zoom every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, from 6:00-8:00. Enjoy one of the great benefits of being a PWC member. Email Chris Wheeler at mrchris.wheeler@gmail.com for information.

Local Writing Clubs

PWC may be the longest running Arizona writing club; however, there are others in the area you might enjoy.

- Shut up and Write—Shut Up & Write hosts free in-person and online writing events for writers all over the world. Updated calendar may be viewed here: <https://www.meetup.com/shutupandwritephoenixaz/events/calendar/> *Bernadette Inlan, X2*
- Tempe Science Fiction Writing Meetup—Thursday Evening South Tempe. Come write and talk about writing craft with other local writers. All skill levels welcome
- Scottsdale Society of Women Writers—<https://brooksgoldmannpublishing.com/scottsdale-society-of-women-writers/>
- Phoenix Oasis Press (POP) - <https://www.phoenixoasispress.com/>. Check out their website this month. They have several fun writing activities planned.
- Arizona Authors Association— www.arizonaauthors.org.
- Arizona Professional Writers - (formerly Arizona Press Women) <https://arizonaprofessionalwriters.org/>
- Poetry Center—<https://poetry.arizona.edu/> - a volunteer group focused on working with incarcerated writers throughout the country.

They are actively looking for additional mentors. If anyone is interested, fill out the form on the Poetry Center's website: <https://poetry.arizona.edu/opportunities/get-involved/free-time-writers-inside-and-out> The page also has the group's core values including their preference that anyone who joins will commit to participate for at least one year.

- SouthWest Writers (SWW)—<https://www.southwestwriters.com/>
- The Studio—Story Slams—<https://www.thestudiophx.org/sos>
- Medium—<https://medium.com/> - a website with tools and advice for writers. Heard about this from another writer who raves about the value of the site.

PWC Website

phoenixwritersclub.com

Send Ilsa Manning or Eric Miller your photo and update your bio—this is free publicity for you, another benefit of being a PWC member.

Member News

- **Penny Orloff:** Interview with **The Authors Show** on her book *Jewish Thighs on Broadway*.
<https://wnbnetworkwest.com/featured-author/Penny%20Orloff>
- **New—Beth Liechti Johnson:** poem *Beyond Welcome Home* published Jan 13, 2025 by **Line of Advance**
<https://www.lineofadvance.org/blog/2025/1/13/beyond-welcome-home>
- **Brad Graber:** Blog—<https://www.bradgraber.com/there-i-said-it/>
- **Mark D Walker:** Blog—<https://millionmilewalker.com/blog/>. His interview with Voyage Phoenix Magazine recently came out *Life & Work with Mark Walker of Scottsdale - VoyagePhoenix - Phoenix*
- **Bert Haagenstad:** His books are available at https://www.amazon.com/First-Easter-Egg-Bert-Haagenstad-ebook/dp/B0CTFTDY6R/ref=sr_1_4?keywords=THE+FIRST+EASTER+EGG&qid=1707505430&sr=8-4
- **Bernadette Inclan:** Bernadette was interviewed on for her book, *The Perils of Beginnings*:
<https://bernadetteinclan.com/> . Check out her interview with Logan Crawford: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvGjRbef2gM>
- **Kixx Goldman:** Blog—<https://www.drkixxgoldman.com/blog/>
- **Louise J Privette:** website—<https://louiseprivette.com/>
- **Cindi Reiss:** Was recently published in *The Blue Guitar Jr.* magazine.
https://www.theblueguitarmagazine.org/resources/Blue+Guitar+Jr.+2025_ENJOY.pdf
- **Nick Bratcher:** podcast— Greenwood & Company, jamisongreenwoodpodcast.com
- **Eric Miller:** <https://emillerphx.substack.com/>
- **New—Carolyn Golden:** website-www.aworkinprocess.us
- **New—Trudy Wells-Mayer:** website—www.trudywells-meyer.com

If you have a blog or website you'd like included in the newsletter, please send D"Anne the link. Announcements about new publishings shall be removed after two months to allow room for new news.

Next Generation Indie Book Awards

The Next Generation Indie Book Awards, the most exciting and rewarding book awards program open to independent publishers and authors worldwide, is NOW ACCEPTING ENTRIES written in English and released in 2023, 2024 or 2025 or with a 2023, 2024 or 2025 copyright date.

This awards program is open to all indie book authors and publishers including independent publishers (small, medium or otherwise), university presses, self-published authors, e-book authors, seasoned authors and even first-time authors in the U.S., Canada, or internationally who have a book, a manuscript, or a galley proof written in English.

Enter now to take advantage of this exciting opportunity to have your book considered for cash prizes, awards, exposure, possible representation by a leading literary agent, and recognition as one of the top independently published books of the year.

The final entry deadline date for the 2025 awards program is **March 14, 2025**.

All Finalists and Winners will be notified by late May 2025.

We wish you much success with your book.

Next Generation Indie Book Awards

Independent Book Publishing Professionals Group

<http://www.IndieBookAwards.com>

Prefer short stories? See <https://shortstoryawards.com> for our short story awards program.

PWC Contacts

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|--------------------------------------|---|---|
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| PWC Centennial Chair | Open | |
| Phoenix Writers Club Facebook | https://www.facebook.com/phxwritersclub/ | |
| Phoenix Writers Club website | phoenixwritersclub.com | |

Local Writing Activities

Central Phoenix Writing Workshop— check their website—they have several workshops scheduled
https://www.meetup.com/CentralPhoenixWritingWorkshop/?_cookie-check=mzzcOalgDI-tuB9n

Write Here, Write Now, Virtual pop-up workshops each month, hosted online, co-presented by Phoenix College and ASU's Piper Center for Creative Writing . Go to Changing Hands to register. 6:30-8:00. <https://www.changinghands.com/upcoming-events>

Writing Workshops, <https://writingworkshops.com/>, lists all sorts of upcoming workshops for writers.

Eventbrite: Use the link below and add the filter “writing”. The upcoming events appear. They have a few workshops scheduled . <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/az--phoenix/writing/>

Phoenix Writers Network: phoenixwritersnetwork.com

The **Tucson Arts Poetry Series (TAPS)** 4th Saturday of the month, at 3:30 pm, two Arizona poets are highlighted reading published work. [Poets & Writers](#), made possible by **Tucson Poetry Society (TPS)**

LOCATION: Tucson Desert Art [Museum](#), 7000 E. Tanque Verde Rd and Sabino Canyon

Writers Inspiration Group (WIG) meets on Zoom on the first and third Tuesday of the Month from 3-4:40 PM. The sessions include prompts that they write about and share with the group. Contact Bernadette if interested.